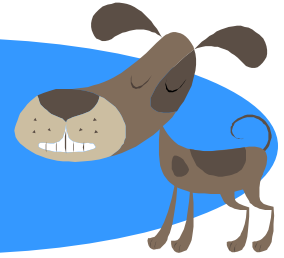


# Gimme Shelter

## News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County  
Department of  
Animal Care &  
Control



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## Dog License Changes Proposed

Animal Care & Control and the Treasurer's Office have proposed changes to the current dog license procedures effective in 2009. The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the proposed changes January 12, 2009, and voted to place the item on the agenda of its business meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.

In the current procedure, dog license renewals come due on January 1 and not later than January 31 of each year. With the recommended changes, the county would issue renewal dog licenses to run concurrently with the rabies vaccination effective period for each individual dog. Also being recommended is a change to allow citizens the option to purchase dog licenses for one, two or three year periods provided that the rabies certificate is valid for the period of time being covered. Additionally, permanent dog tags will be issued one time and be good for the life of the dog. Replacements may be purchased, if needed.

Dog license fees will remain at \$10 per year for each dog regardless of spay/neuter status.

### If the changes are approved, how will dog license renewals happen in 2009?

- Renewals for 2009 Dog Licenses will not be sent out in November, as in previous years.
- License Renewal Notices will be sent to each dog owner one month prior to the expiration month of their current dog license. If the rabies expiration date is:

**2009** – Owners must provide a new rabies certificate or indicate they no longer have the dog. They can purchase a 1, 2 or 3 year dog license concurrent with the expiration of the new rabies certificate.

**2010** – Owners may purchase a 1 year license that will expire in 2010.

**2011** – Owners may purchase a 1 or 2 year license that will expire in 2010 or 2011.

**2012** – Owners may purchase a 1, 2 or 3 year license that will expire in 2010, 2011 or 2012.

- 2008 dog licenses will continue to be valid in 2009 and will expire concurrent with the month and day that the dog's current rabies certificate expires (unless the rabies certificate expired in 2008). For example, if the rabies certificate expires on 09/12/2010 then the dog's 2008 tag will be valid until 9/12/2009.
- Upon receipt of payment of dog license tax, a permanent dog tag will be issued for each dog being licensed.
- Dog owners who have a current rabies certificate and do not have a current dog license will have to purchase a new dog license. This license will expire in 2009 concurrent with the month and day the rabies vaccination expires.
- Dog owners who have a current dog license and their rabies certificate expired prior to 2009, must provide a new rabies certificate or indicate that they no longer have the dog. Owners may purchase a 1, 2, or 3 year dog license to coincide with their new rabies certificate expiration date.

**Questions?** Visit [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals) or call us at 703-777-0406.



### What if I don't have a license?

- Owners are required to provide a rabies certificate in order to obtain a license.
- The dog license expiration date will be month and day of the following year concurrent with the rabies certificate expiration date. For example, if an owner purchases a dog license on 5/6/2009 and the dog's rabies certificate expires on 02/23/2011, the owner will purchase a 1-year dog license for \$10.00 that will expire on 2/23/2010.
- Upon receipt of payment, the owner will be issued a permanent tag
- In 2010, the owner will receive a monthly dog license renewal notice and may purchase another 1-year license. After renewing their rabies certificate in 2011, the owner will be able to purchase a 1, 2, or 3-year dog licenses.

# Top 10 Cold Weather Pet Care Tips



**Follow these simple steps to keep your pet happy all winter long!**

1. Keep cats inside. Outdoor cats are vulnerable to frostbite, hypothermia, and can freeze to death.
2. Never let your dog off its leash in the winter. Dogs can lose their scent in ice and snow and become easily lost. As at any time of year, make sure your dog has proper ID at all times in case he does become lost.
3. Don't leave your pet in the car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator, holding in cold air. Your pet can freeze to death.
4. During cold weather, cats and small animals sometimes take refuge in car engines for warmth. Always bang on the hood of the car before you start the engine to give the animal a chance to escape.
5. Be sure to wipe your dogs' paws and stomach after coming inside from ice or snow. Your dog can ingest salt, antifreeze, or other agents by licking his paws clean. Your dog's paw pads can also become irritated from encrusted snow or ice.
6. Never shave your pet down to the skin in cold weather, as a longer coat is warmer. Be sure your pet is completely dry before going outside after a bath.
7. Does your pet spend a lot of time playing outside in winter? Increase his food intake to help keep him energetic and warm.
8. Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to clean any spills completely, and store antifreeze in a place your pets can't reach. Consider using products with the less toxic ingredient propylene glycol.
9. Consider a coat or sweater for your pet if he is small, young, elderly, or short haired. Be sure it covers from the neck to the base of the tail as well as under the belly.
10. Be sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, off the floor, away from drafts, and with cozy blankets or pillows to cuddle in.

## Employee of the Month

**Amy Seymour** is January's Employee of the Month! Amy is being recognized for her excellent and unselfish work as the Volunteer Coordinator. Specifically, her work in support of the Pet Pantry, coordinating coverage with staff and volunteers while ensuring that food and other supplies were kept in stock and ready for distribution was outstanding. Her efforts ensured that hundreds of animals belonging to families in need would be able to enjoy the holiday season and beyond. This effort was made even

more difficult during a period when staff were working on other priorities and, without complaint, she put forth the extra effort necessary to ensure coverage. Amy's hard work and positive attitude is highly commendable, and she is a great asset to the Department.

**Thank you Amy for all you do!**



**Congratulations Amy!**

## What We're Up To...

### Furry Fridays

Have you been to Furry Friday yet? You've got two chances to come in February! Furry Friday is our monthly adoption event at the Sterling Community Center, located at 120 Enterprise St. in Sterling. We'll be there with wonderful animals looking for new homes on **Friday, February 6** and **Friday, February 20**, from **5:00-7:00pm**. Hope to see you there!

### Find Somebunny to Love

February is **Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month**, and it's a great time to find some "bunny" to love!

Rabbits make great pets, and are affectionate, social, and fun. There are lots of rabbits currently available for adoption at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, and they'd love to meet you! Come visit—you might find your perfect pet!

